

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION
CORPORATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

BERNARD L. MADOFF INVESTMENT
SECURITIES LLC,

Defendant.

Adv. Pro. No. 08-1789 (SMB)

SIPA Liquidation

(Substantively Consolidated)

In re:

BERNARD L. MADOFF,

Debtor.

**APPLICATION OF TRIAY STAGNETTO NEISH AS SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE
TRUSTEE FOR ALLOWANCE OF INTERIM COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES
RENDERED AND REIMBURSEMENT OF ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES
INCURRED FROM DECEMBER 1, 2015 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2016 AND FOR
RELEASE OF A PORTION OF FEES PREVIOUSLY HELD BACK**

Keith Azopardi, together with other members and associates at the law firm of Triay Stagnetto Neish (“TSN”), as special counsel for Irving H. Picard (the “Trustee”), Trustee for the liquidation of the business of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC (“BLMIS” or “Debtor”) under the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970, 15 U.S.C. §§ 78aaa *et seq.* (“SIPA”) and Bernard L. Madoff, submits this Application for Interim Allowance of Fees and Reimbursement of Expenses (the “Application”) for compensation of legal fees in the amount of \$118,782.37 (of which 20% is to be deferred through the conclusion of the liquidation period) and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$7,508.19 for the period from December 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016 (the “Compensation Period”), and the release of \$50,719.19,

which represents a portion of the fees previously held back. In support of the Application, TSN respectfully submits as follows:

I. BACKGROUND

1. On December 15, 2008, Judge Stanton of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, upon application filed on the same date by the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (“SIPC”), entered an order (the “Decree Order”) calling for the liquidation of the business of the Debtor in accordance with SIPA and appointing the Trustee as the trustee for the liquidation of the Debtor’s business.

2. The Debtor’s liquidation proceeding was removed to this Court pursuant to SIPA § 78eee(b)(4) and, to the extent consistent with the provisions of SIPA, is being conducted as though it were a case under chapters 1, 3, and 5 and subchapters I and II of chapter 7 of title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”) pursuant to SIPA § 78fff(b).

3. Beginning on September 11, 2012, TSN has served as special counsel for the Trustee.

4. On November 13, 2012, this Court entered an order approving the Trustee’s motion for authority to retain TSN as special counsel to the Trustee with respect to matters arising under Gibraltar law.

5. TSN’s retention agreement with the Trustee contains a fee arrangement pursuant to which TSN agreed to a fee reduction in the amount of 10% as well as an additional holdback of fees in the amount of 20% (“Holdback”).

II. SERVICES RENDERED BY TSN

6. The legal services performed on behalf of the Trustee during the time period covered by this Application are as follows:

7. TSN continued to advise the Trustee on several aspects of Gibraltar law.

8. TSN assisted in drafting, filing, and reviewing pleadings filed by the Trustee in actions involving various Gibraltarian defendants.

9. TSN represented the Trustee before the courts of Gibraltar.

III. COMPENSATION REQUESTED

10. The Application demonstrates how TSN has both added value to the Debtor's estate and has advanced the Debtor's SIPA liquidation proceeding.

11. TSN has been mindful of the need to avoid undue legal fees in this case and has taken all reasonable steps to provide cost-effective representation while rendering services with the highest degree of skill and professionalism. To that end, TSN has staffed this matter leanly and endeavored to eliminate duplication of effort by giving primary responsibility of the case to one partner, Mr. Keith Azopardi.

12. During the time period of December 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016, TSN provided a total of 358 hours of legal services to the Trustee in this case. Prior to the 10% discount, the total amount of fees incurred in this time period was \$131,980.41 and the total blended rate for professional services was \$368.66/hour. After the 10% discount, the total amount of fees incurred is \$118,782.37 and the total blended rate is \$331.79/hour. TSN has agreed to a further holdback of 20% of its fees in the amount of \$23,756.47, resulting in the present request for compensation in the amount of \$95,025.90.

13. A breakdown of the total number of hours performed by each TSN timekeeper is provided on **Exhibit A**, annexed hereto.

14. TSN seeks reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with its representation of the Trustee during the Compensation Period of \$7,508.19.

15. An itemized list of these expenses is detailed on **Exhibit B**, annexed hereto.

IV. RELEASE OF THE HOLDBACK

16. As noted above, TSN's retention agreement with the Trustee contains a Holdback fee arrangement in which 20% of the approved compensation is deferred until further order of the Court.

17. For the current and prior compensation periods, the amount of the Holdback for TSN's fees is \$153,694.50. TSN seeks a release of the Holdback in the amount of \$50,719.19.

18. SIPC has advised that it will file a recommendation in support of the fees and expenses in this Application and the release of the Holdback in the amount of \$50,719.19 for TSN.

19. Hence, TSN respectfully requests that this Court authorize the release of the Holdback payment to TSN in the amount of \$50,719.19, as supported by SIPC.

V. GENERAL MATTERS

20. All of the professional services for which compensation is requested herein were performed by TSN for and on behalf of the Trustee and not on behalf of any other person or entity. No agreement or understanding exists between TSN and any other person for sharing compensation received in connection with this case nor has any other person or entity agreed to provide TSN with compensation for the legal services described herein.

21. SIPA § 78eee(b)(5)(A) provides in pertinent part that, upon appropriate application and after a hearing, "[t]he court shall grant reasonable compensation for services rendered and reimbursement for proper costs and expenses incurred . . . by a trustee, and by the attorney for such a trustee" SIPA § 78eee(b)(5)(C) specifically establishes SIPC's role in connection with applications for compensation and the consideration the Court should give to SIPC's recommendation concerning fees. That section provides as follows:

In any case in which such allowances are to be paid by SIPC without reasonable expectation of recoupment thereof as provided in this chapter and there is no difference between the amounts requested and the amounts recommended by SIPC, the court shall award the amounts recommended by SIPC. In determining the amount of allowances in all other cases, the court shall give due consideration to the nature, extent, and value of the services rendered, and shall place considerable reliance on the recommendation of SIPC.

SIPA § 78eee(b)(5)(C).

22. To the extent the general estate is insufficient to pay such allowances as an expense of administration, SIPA § 78eee(b)(5)(E) requires SIPC to advance the funds necessary to pay the compensation of TSN (*see* SIPA § 78fff-3(b)(2)).

23. The Trustee has determined, at this time, that he has no reasonable expectation that the general estate will be sufficient to make a distribution to general creditors or pay administrative expenses. SIPC has advised the Trustee that it concurs with this determination. Accordingly, any fees and expenses allowed by this Court will be paid from advances by SIPC without any reasonable expectation by SIPC of recoupment thereof.

24. Therefore, with respect to this Application, TSN requests that consistent with SIPA § 78eee(b)(5)(C), the Court “shall award the amounts recommended by SIPC.” *See In re Bell & Beckwith*, 112 B.R. 876 (Bankr. N.D. Ohio 1990). TSN expects that SIPC’s recommendation shall be filed with this Court separately.

WHEREFORE, TSN respectfully requests that this Court enter an Order:

- a. Granting this Application;
- b. Allowing and awarding \$118,782.37, of which \$95,025.90 is to be paid currently and \$23,756.47 is to be held back through the conclusion of the liquidation period or until further order of the Court, as an interim payment for professional services rendered by TSN to the Trustee from December 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016;
- c. Allowing payment to TSN in the amount of \$7,508.19 for reimbursement of

expenses incurred by TSN from December 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016;

- d. Releasing \$50,719.19 to TSN from the Holdback for Prior Compensation Periods;
and
- e. Granting TSN such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 20, 2016

TSN

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EXHIBIT A

SUMMARY OF INTERIM FEE APPLICATION
OF TSN FOR SERVICES RENDERED
FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1, 2015 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2016

	HOURLY RATE	TOTAL HOURS BILLED	TOTAL COMPENSATION
Keith Azopardi	\$464.96	205.3	\$95,456.29
Owen Smith	\$302.86	40.3	\$12,205.26
Kelly Powers	\$216.36	112.4	\$24,318.86
Total	\$368.66	358	\$131,980.41
Total minus 10% Discount	\$331.79		\$118,782.37
Total Net of 20% Holdback:			\$95,025.90
Holdback for Prior and Current Compensation Periods:			\$153,694.50
Release of the Holdback			\$50,719.19
Total Compensation to be Paid			\$145,745.09

EXHIBIT B

**EXPENSE SUMMARY OF TSN FOR THE PERIOD
OF DECEMBER 1, 2015 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2016**

Expenses	Total
Travel Related Expenses	\$3,871.51
General Expenses (telephone, copies, postage, etc.)	\$261.28
Court Filing Fees	\$1,728.31
Barrister Fees	\$1,647.10
Grand Total	\$7,508.19